

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 03375 020042Z

63

ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7212

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 3375

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, GT

SUBJECT: BIO INFORMATION - GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR VIZCAINO

REF: ROME 9421

1. HUMBERTO VIZCAINO LEAL WAS BORN DECEMBER T, 1911, IN GUATEMALA CITY. HE HOLDS A LAW DEGREE FROM GUATEMALA'S UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS.

2. HE FIRST CAME TO POLITICAL PROMINENCE DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF JACOBO ARBENZ (1951 TO 1954), WHEN HE WAS ELECTED TO CONGRESS AS A CANDIDATE OF THE ULTRA CONSERVATIVE PAU PARTY. HIS OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF THE ARBENZ ADMINISTRATION MADE HIM THE LEADING OPPOSITION DEPUTY.

3. AFTER ARBENZ WAS OVERTHROWN, VIZCAINO SERVED FOR TWO WEEKS ON THE SUPREME COURT BEFORE BEING NAMED AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN AND THE HOLY SEE. HE REMAINED IN SPAIN UNTIL 1959, AND REPORTEDLY RECEIVED A DOCTORATE OF LAWS FROM A SPANISH UNIVERSITY.

4. VIZCAINO SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (1961 TO 1963), GUATEMALA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN (1963 TO 1966), VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (1965), AND SUPREME COURT MAGISTRATE (1970 TO 1974). HE WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR

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PAGE 02 GUATEM 03375 020042Z

TO ITALY AND EGYPT IN SEPTEMBER 1974. IN JUNE 1975,

HOWEVER, GUATEMALA NAMED AN AMBASSADOR EGYPT, SO
VEZCAINO WILL IN THE FUTURE BE ACCREDITED ONLY IN
ITALY.

5. EMBASSY AND USUN REPORTS OF LATE 1960'S DESCRIBE
VIZCAINO AS EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE, FIERCELY
ANTI-COMMUNIST, AND PRO-REPUBLIC OF CHINA. HE HAS LONG
BEEN CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH IN GUATEMALA.

6. HE HOLDS THE FOLLOWING DECORATIONS: ORDER OF
SAINT SYLVERSTER, CONFERRED BY POPE PAUL VI; GRAND
CROSS OF THE ORDER OF ISABEL THE CATHOLIC, CONFERRED
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN; AND GRAND CROSS OF THE
ORDER OF THE BRILLIANT STAR, CONFERRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE RPUBLIC OF CHINA.

7. VIZCAINO IS MARRIED TO MARIA CRISTINA URRUELA DE
VIZCAINO. THEY HAVE FIVE GROWN CHILDREN, FOUR GIRLS
AND ONE BOY.
MELOY

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